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TITLE: Method and apparatus for providing a station set with advanced telecommunications services

Detailed Description Text (42):

In one alternative to this embodiment, a television set 1340 can be used as a station set by connecting a cordless handset 1350 to a digital set top box ("STB") 1360. The voice path would be provided by the cordless handset 1350, and the digital STB 1360 would both compress and decompress speech. The handset 1350 preferably has additional function keys that would make its use as part of a station set more convenient. Rather than having a tip & ring interface to the network, the base station either can be on a serial port (RS-485, for example) or can have an Ethernet connection to the digital STB 1360.

Detailed Description Text (44):

FIG. 14 is a block diagram of a telecommunications system 1400 of a preferred embodiment using a hybrid fiber-coax cable and a premises gateway 1410, which acts as a router. A primary advantage of this embodiment is that PCs, television sets, and station sets can all be used for telephony. If PCs are equipped with the necessary hardware, they can be fully functional station sets. Television sets can be used to alert the user to incoming messages by writing a message to the screen. If the user had a cordless telephone, the cordless telephone can be used to provide the speaking path and to collect user inputs, and the television set can be used as a display device. It is preferred that the station set client be running in the telephony application server 1420, which is the device best positioned to ensure synchronization of user input and user displays. In the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 13, a particular cordless handset 1350 was used with one television set. For the system shown in FIG. 14, a cordless handset can be used with any display device (i.e., any television set, PC, or station set). The handset preferably has a display selector control to select a telephony window display on all or part of the screen.